

# GayCommunityNews

Vol. 10, No. 29

(617) 426-4469

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February 12, 1983

## Appeals Process Ends

# Revere Defendant Davis Ordered to Jail

By Mitzel

The six-year-long prosecutions of the notorious "Revere Sex Ring" cases ended Tuesday February 1, when Superior Court Chief Justice James P. Lynch denied motions on behalf of defendant Mark Davis.

Lynch then ordered Davis to surrender himself for incarceration at 10 AM Friday February 4. Davis will then begin serving a 3-5 year sentence at Walpole.

Davis was convicted by Lynch in March 1981 for three counts of sodomy with Ed Masden. The acts were alleged to have occurred in Revere in 1972, when Masden was then a minor.

The Revere cases developed when then Suffolk County District Attorney Garrett Bryne, in 1977, indicted 24 men and alleged they were part of a massive homosexual

sex-ring involving minors. Davis, along with the others, was arrested December 6, 1977.

Following the sensational arrests and the media campaign against the gay community, gay activists organized to challenge the DA and his charges. They formed the Boston/Boise Committee and in the 1978 elections, Bryne was swept from office.

In December, 1978, Dr. Donald Allen, the first and only defendant to be tried during Bryne's term, was found guilty of sex with a 15-year-old male hustler. Dr. Allen received five years probation.

When Newman Flanagan, the current DA, took office, he offered those awaiting trial a plea bargain: probation in exchange for a guilty plea. Mark Davis originally accepted this plea bargain. He then withdrew his plea. Davis has always

maintained he is not guilty as charged in the indictments.

In 1981, Davis went to trial before Chief Justice Lynch. In an ironic twist, Lynch became Chief Justice after his predecessor, Robert Bonin, was removed from office following his attendance at a public lecture featuring Gore Vidal at the Arlington Street Church. The lecture was sponsored by the Boston/Boise Committee.

After a sensational media campaign against Bonin, he was removed for "the appearance of impropriety." So Judge Lynch has his job because of these Revere cases.

At Davis's trial, Judge Lynch indicated through remarks to the court his prejudice against defendants facing statutory sex charges. Masden, now a Navy veteran in his

mid-20s, took the stand and testified to sex acts which allegedly took place 9 years earlier. Masden's testimony had no corroboration. Yet Lynch found Davis guilty of all three sodomy counts and gave him a 3-to-5 sentence at Walpole.

Davis immediately appealed. He hired a new attorney, William Homans, who moved for a revision of the sentence and for a new trial. Davis was the only man from among the original 24 accused to actually receive a prison sentence. Davis's appeals were denied.

In October 1982, Don Heres came forward and gave Homans an affidavit. Heres said that in conversations with Ed Masden in 1978, the alleged victim admitted he barely knew Mark Davis and had never had sex with him. Two other affidavits at the original trial indicated that Masden had named to police men with whom he claimed to have sex when no sex had ever taken place.

In Heres's affidavit, he stated that Masden had told him that he had agreed to cooperate with police because he feared that if he didn't he would be jailed. Masden was also the alleged victim in the Revere case of Roger Spear. The charges against Spear were dismissed when the court determined that Masden was not a credible witness.

On the basis of Heres's affidavit, attorney Homans made a new motion for another trial. Again, he sought a revision of the original sentence.

Davis, whose original sentence had been stayed at the time of his 1981 conviction, was in court on February 1 because the Commonwealth asked the court to end the stay and incarcerate him. At the

same time, Lynch heard Homans's two new motions.

In a brief and perfunctory manner, Lynch denied both of Homans's motions and then agreed to lift the stay. A dozen supporters of Davis, including family and close friends, were in the courtroom when the Judge announced his decisions. Davis's elderly mother broke into tears when Lynch ordered Davis to prison.

Davis, who lost a Department of Youth Services job in 1977 at the time of his initial arrest, has been working for the past year as an announcer on a local rock radio station.

After the court session, Davis commented, "Living through this thing for six years is enough of a punishment."

Heres, in court to support Davis, said, "It's still a witchhunt and he's the one they got. It's the same thing we've been screaming about for years. They should have looked more into Masden's background."

William Homans said, "The Davis case appears to have been singled out by the DA's office for different treatment from the other Revere cases, which were similar [to his]. It's ironic that Mr. Davis had withdrawn his guilty plea on which they recommended probation, whereupon going to trial the DA recommended a harsher sentence. It was not clear why he was singled out."

With all the possible legal remedies exhausted, Davis's supporters have already announced the formation of the Free Mark Davis Committee. They have announced a petition campaign to demand Davis's immediate release from prison.

## Secret Group Harasses Lesbians

# Northampton Lesbians Fight Hate Campaign

By Jil Clark

NORTHAMPTON, MA — If this world offers dykes a haven anywhere this little town is one: a picturesque New England College town nestled with three other rural college towns in the Berkshire foothills. The liberalism which springs from the campuses makes the Pioneer Valley an attractive place for lesbians to settle — and growing numbers have in the past half decade.

"It was getting to be like Provincetown," says the co-owner of Womofyre Bookstore, Kiriyo Spooner.

But in December, several lesbians — in their homes and at lesbian community businesses — began receiving phone calls and notes threatening their lives and vowing to "eradicate" lesbianism in the area.

"Lesbians and lesbian organizations have been so public here without any kind of [negative] reaction for so long . . . because the tolerance threshold was higher with so many colleges around," says a lesbian local reporter who asked that her name not be printed for fear that she might become the next harassment victim. "Something has exploded," she concluded.

Kiriyo said that she and other lesbians feel "more violated than anything else . . . I thought this was my home, that I could be myself here."

Most lesbians feel frightened. Their fear is heightened by the fact that these threats are arriving in the wake of three brutal attacks on lesbians last fall. Two lesbians were raped — one by a group of men in a van — and a third was beaten unconscious and later hospitalized.

Two of the victims report that their attackers made lesbian-hating statements during the assaults.

Some lesbians suspect that the rapists and the phone callers are the same people or from the same group. One of the victims said that, while she was recovering in the hospital, she received threaten-

ing phone calls very similar to those that have since been recorded on a tape machine at the New Alexandria Lesbian Library (NALL).

The phone harassment began on December 8, with calls to the home of Bet Birdfish, archivist for NALL, and three other lesbians. All four had recently had their names and phone numbers published in the classifieds of the *Valley Women's Voice*.

One of the three phone messages Birdfish received on her machine that evening went as follows:

"I think you lesbians are scum. You're the sickest things on this earth. You're the most disgusting things that have ever come to Northampton. We will never accept homosexuality or lesbianism in our town anymore."

Later that evening, a man called from what sounded to Birdfish like a bar and threatened to break into her apartment.

Birdfish told GCN she doubts that the caller knows her address. "And we're being extremely cautious when we give directions out over the phone to women calling wanting to visit the library."

The number of obscene or threatening calls and callers has increased in the last two months. A group called SHUN (Stop Homosexual Unity Now) is claiming responsibility for the communiques. An employee at Womofyre found the following letter jammed under the door the morning of January 29:

"To all homosexual groups: We as a community are sick of the threat of Gay Life to our children, Families and life in this city. Everyone has a right to be what they want, but wantonly flaunting a 'disgusting' way of life on our streets will not be condoned. We members of SHUN have been sending messages and threats to the Smith College Lesbian Alliance, to GALA [the Gay and Lesbian Alliance] and to various lesbians in this town. We are an Amherst-based group dedicated to the 'eradication' of gays in this area. We will route out and expell

this extremist homosexual germ by peaceful or violent means . . ."

(sic) The author or authors vowed to intensify the harassment and torch the bookstore and the library.

Lesbians here are meeting weekly to report new cases of harassment and "investigate them," to "control rumors" and to establish "support networks" for lesbians being threatened, said Birdfish.

The women are also planning

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# Loft Officers Fined, Trial Fizzles to Close

By Larry Goldsmith

BOSTON — The latest chapter in the continuing saga of The Loft came to an end on January 28, when the officers of the after-hours club agreed to a plea bargain offered unexpectedly during a break in the five-day jury trial.

Joseph D'Onofrio and Paul Cadoret pleaded guilty to one count each of selling alcohol without a license, selling soft drinks without a license, overcrowding and conducting an unlicensed Sunday dance. In return for the guilty pleas, Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Kevin Connelly agreed to drop approximately 40 other charges, all for the same offenses on several different dates.

Boston Municipal Court Judge Charles Grabeau fined D'Onofrio and Cadoret \$1600 each for the offenses.

The Loft, located less than a block from Boston Police Headquarters, has for more than four years been at the center of a complex legal controversy involving police, the Boston Licensing Board and countless rounds of litigation. The club was first charged in 1979 with violating a city ordinance prohibiting "entertainment" between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. D'Onofrio and Cadoret challenged the constitutionality of that ordinance and won a Superior

Court ruling permitting them to operate "after hours."

Since 1980, the Vice Control Unit of the Boston Police Department has entered the club repeatedly to issue citations for alleged violation of city licensing rules, prompting D'Onofrio and Cadoret to complain of police harassment. A series of legal and judicial opinions prevented prosecution on those charges until May 9, 1982, when vice officers carrying search warrants culminated a six-week undercover investigation with a late-night raid, arresting the owners and employees, dispersing club patrons and seizing club property for evidence.

More than 50 charges were filed at that time, including two charges of "keeping a house of ill fame" later dismissed in a pre-trial hearing by Municipal Court Judge John Cratsley, who found the ill fame law unconstitutional.

At the time of the May 9 raid, Boston media issued sensational reports of a "porno, sex [and] drug raid," but no follow-up accounts of the progress or outcome of the trial have been given.

D'Onofrio described the plea bargaining as the most expedient resolution of the case. "Our attorneys advised us that this was the best course of action at this time

and we hope now that these events have passed we'll have room to cooperate with the police department in the future," he said. "The Loft will continue to operate, without any doubt."

Ironically, D'Onofrio said, three of the eight jurors told him after the trial that based on the evidence heard thus far, they would have voted not to convict.

Vice squad Sgt. Edward McNelley, who led the investigations of The Loft, said he was satisfied with the outcome of the trial.

"I think it's fair," McNelley told GCN. "We got a conviction on each charge and we're happy with it."

McNelley added, however, that investigations of The Loft will continue. "As long as The Loft is violating the law, we will look into them," he said.

Asked to comment on D'Onofrio's and Cadoret's claim that the vice squad singled them out because they cater primarily to blacks and gay men, McNelley responded that "it isn't a question of whether it's a gay club. If that were the case, we'd have Buddies or Chaps or whatever else in there." The patrons of The Loft comprise mostly straight black men and women on Friday nights and gay men on Saturday nights.



# News Notes

## quote of the week

"The purpose of this wasn't intended to be a gay rights bill. That wasn't my intent at all.

"But if it's a benefit for their cause, so be it. Regardless, I don't think the police department or any other employer should be in the business of inquiring about a person's sexual preferences."

Senator Thomas P. O'Reilly, lawyer, Catholic and staunchly conservative state senator from Prince George's County, Maryland, commenting on legislation he introduced to prohibit invasive questioning about sexuality by any potential government employers. O'Reilly initiated the legislation when a female applicant he knows was embarrassed by a lie detector test question concerning her sexual habits and tastes.

## play it again, uncle sam

WASHINGTON, DC — The Gay Rights National Lobby has announced that the federal Gay Civil Rights Bill has been reintroduced in the House of Representatives. Congressman Ted Weiss (D-NY) and Congressman Henry Waxman (D-CA) are again chief sponsors of the bill, which has been numbered H.R. 427 for the 98th Congressional session.

When introduced into Congress last year, the bill had 61 co-sponsors. Steve Endean, GRNL's Executive Director, hopes to have 75 to 80 sponsors this year.

Endean attributes the anticipated gain in co-sponsors to "increasing the clout of the gay civil rights movement by showing we know how to 'play the political game' and intend to do so."

Hearings on the bill may be held during this session of Congress, although there is no anticipated attempt to move the bill out of committee. "We're carefully laying the groundwork, building our strength so that, when we do go to the floor of the House, we'll have a shot at passage," said Endean.

## public access tv stays tuned

WOODSTOCK, NY — In a flap raised because of a program depicting some gay male nudity, the Town Board of Woodstock refused to pull the plug on partially town-funded channel 6, according to the *Daily Freeman*, Kingston, NY.

The Board agreed that a committee of volunteers should study programming content and community standards.

Said one citizen, a former state trooper, "I don't want to pull the plug on Channel 6. I want to pull the plug on homosexual love."

Said Liza Cowan, Woodstock Chamber of Commerce president and supporter of gay programming, "I would like to see my fine outstanding life represented [on TV]."

## square pegs team up

WASHINGTON, DC — A gay man and a transsexual on the DC police squad work together to cover a beat specializing in family disputes, reports the *Washington Post*.

The first acknowledged homosexual officer and the first transsexual officer on the District force were assigned to work together.

Bobby Almstead and Bonnie Davenport are described as being "more patient, more understanding and more thorough" than their co-workers, according to their supervising sergeant, Frank Weinsheimer. "They were assigned together because they are an effective team," the sergeant said.

Not so, said another officer, "The other officers . . . will not work in the same car with them. It's personal, not professional."

Regardless of why they work together, Weinsheimer is very pleased with the job they do. "They bring a special quality to the job. Bobby is Spanish speaking and gay and has the eagerness of a rookie. Bonnie is a veteran and has a double perspective."

## heckler will answer for herself

WASHINGTON, DC — Former Rep. Margaret Heckler of Newton, Mass., will be questioned on her anti-gay congressional voting record and her attitude toward gay related issues should she become the Secretary of Health and Human Services, according to sources quoted in the *Washington Blade*.

Heckler has been nominated to assume the HHS post and will appear before the Senate Finance Committee during her confirmation hearings this month.

A supporter of the cutoff of funds to Legal Services Corporation for cases involving homosexuality, Heckler was defeated this fall by Rep. Barney Frank in a race that attracted strong gay interest. The Human Rights Campaign Fund donated \$10,000 to Frank's reelection campaign.

## milwaukee baths raided

MILWAUKEE, WI — Undercover police raided the Milwaukee Club Baths twice in 36 hours last month, according to Chicago *Gay Life*. Six men were arrested on sex charges in the first raid while four men were busted in the second.

Reports also indicate that the police searched rooms and ran computer checks on all patrons found on the premises.

Charges are Class A misdemeanors with sentences of up to nine months and fines of up to \$10,000.

In a plea bargaining arrangement, the men could plead guilty to charges of disorderly conduct, pay a small fine and have no record of an arrest for sex offenses. An attorney for about half the men said he expected several of his clients to take the offer.

The manager of the baths, Paul de Marco, however, would prefer to see not guilty pleas from the accused. De Marco hopes that the Milwaukee gay community will organize itself to defend the men and to let local police know that harassment of gay businesses will not be tolerated.

## bureaucrats bury blues busts inquiry

NEW YORK, NY — Four months after Blues, a black gay bar, was raided by 25 police and several patrons were severely beaten, it appears that city officials are content to leave the gay community's questions about the incident go unaddressed, reports the newsletter of Black and White Men Together, New York.

At its January meeting, the Gay Community Council invited representatives from both the District Attorney's office and the office of Mayor Ed Koch to speak to the concerns of gays and lesbians. The DA's office declined to send anyone and Herb Rickman, the mayor's liaison to the gay community sent an assistant, Steve Rossario.

Rossario was unfamiliar with the raid and could not explain his office's lack of interest in Blues and raid victims. He only promised to make public the findings of the DA's investigation. Rossario consistently referred to gays as "you" and the mayor's office and city officials as "we."

BWMT has promised to monitor the investigation and to pressure officials to ensure that the attacks on Blues and its patrons not be whitewashed by the police.

## author and lover of hilda doolittle dies

VEVEY, SWITZERLAND — Annie Winifred Ellerman Bryher, 88, for forty years the companion and lover of Hilda Doolittle and a historical novelist, died January 29 at her home in Vevey, according to the *New York Times*.

Bryher, born the daughter of an English shipping magnate, was rumored to be one the wealthiest women in the world. She is survived by her adopted daughter, Perdita, whose natural mother was Bryher's lover Doolittle.

A close friend of South African writer Mary Renault, Bryher began writing at age 58 and wrote nine novels, including *Days of Mars*, an account of wartime London life with Doolittle. Doolittle died in 1961 at age 75.

## mayor opens mouth, bites foot

CHARLES TOWN, WV — A West Virginia NAACP chapter has called for the resignation of the Charles Town mayor because he suggested that low-income women who have had numerous abortions be "spayed," according to the *Boston Herald*.

D.C. Master, mayor of Charles Town, made his remark in opposition to funding of statewide family planning clinics. In defense of his remark, hizzoner, a veterinarian, said he meant it as "neither sexist or racist."

"One mistake is understandable but after two someone has to do something," he said.

Jefferson County NAACP president George Rutherford compared Master's remarks to those of Adolph Hitler and said, "He's done some crazy things in the past, but this is the limit. This is the maddest the NAACP executive committee has ever been."

## five more inmates charged in jail rapes

WASHINGTON, DC — The *Washington Post* reported last week that five more inmates were indicted in connection with rapes and sexual assaults at the Prince George's County Detention Center in suburban Washington.

This brings to twelve the number of men charged in an ongoing special grand jury investigating sexual attacks among inmates at the facility. Inmates and guards say that on the average about a dozen coercive sexual encounters occur each week at the jail.

## downside economy, upswing of woman battery

WASHINGTON, DC — Workers at shelters for battered women are reporting an alarming increase in the incidence of wife beating as evidenced by demands for their services, reports the *Washington Post*. They believe the increase is fueled by the poor economy.

Linda Heisner, director of the Maryland state division of Protective Services for Children and Families, said, "When you look at the economy there are more people under stress financially so there are going to be more arguments about money. It's the same sort of stress that is causing the increase in child abuse."

## gay activist in council race

TAMPA, FL — John Grannan, a local gay activist, is running for a seat on the Tampa city council. He hopes that low voter turnout in the March 1 election will work to his advantage and give the gay community added clout should gays vote in large numbers, according to the *Weekly News*, Miami.

But, Grannan says that winning won't be every thing in this race. "Just the fact that I'm running as an openly gay man is a victory in itself."

## gay health group hires first director

NEW YORK, NY — The National Gay Health Education Foundation (NGHEF), has hired its first executive director, taking a major step toward implementing its objectives.

NGHEF announced the hiring of Ron Vachon, long-time public health worker and author of health-related articles for the *GCN* and the *New York Native*.

Vachon's responsibilities will include setting up an office and organizing day-to-day Foundation functions as well as staging national health conferences and publishing the National Gay Health Directory. NGHEF plans to maintain a full-time office and staff when funds are available.

## "army of god" leader convicted in abduction

ALTON, IL — The leader of an anti-abortion fringe group was found guilty last week of trying to close an abortion clinic by abducting the owner and his wife, reported the *New York Times*.

Don Benny Anderson and two other members of the so-called Army of God abducted Hector Zevallos to stop performing legal abortions at the Hope Clinic for Women in Granite City, Illinois. The Zevallos were held captive for several days and then released after Dr. Zevallos promised to stop performing abortions.

Anderson was not charged with kidnapping because the captives were not taken across state lines. He faces a maximum twenty years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

The Hope Clinic for Women remains a fully-functioning clinic offering legal abortions to women in the bi-state St. Louis metropolitan area.

## man charged with assault in self-defense action

NEW YORK, NY — A man who was attacked in a bar fight and then attacked again on the street in front of the bar, has been charged with assault because he defended himself against the second attack, according to the *New York Native*.

Robert Edsall, a Hunter College student, claimed self-defense in his use of a broken bottle to ward off one of two men carrying switchblades. Edsall said that he had already been stabbed when he used the bottle to cut one of his assailants.

Edsall also reported that there were strong indications of gay baiting at the police station when the cops made references to "fags" during his questioning.

## fenway assaults

BOSTON — Reports of several assaults in the Fenway, a gay male cruising area, have reached *GCN* this past week. On February 2, a man walking through the park around 8 p.m. saw two men confronting a third, beating him and robbing him of his wallet. The eyewitness went to the aid of the injured man and was himself beaten badly by the attackers. He suffered broken ribs, a punctured lung and a bruised kidney, and has just been released after five days in Beth Israel Hospital.

The attackers, one wearing a beige jacket and a tan cap, may have been involved in a half-dozen other recent assaults at the Fenway, according to the eyewitness. Police report that no arrests have yet been made.



## Requires Notice to Parents

# Groups Rally to Quash Teen Contraceptive Rule

By Jil Clark

NEW YORK — The Reagan Administration is attempting to force certain federally-funded clinics to notify the parents of women under 18 who request contraceptives.

Following the announcement of the new regulation by Richard Schweiker, out-going Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Attorney General of New York state and lawyers for the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR), the American Civil Liberties Union's Reproductive Freedom Project, and the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) filed two separate suits against Schweiker.

Less than an hour after the suits had been filed in the Federal District Court for the Southern District of New York, Judge Henry Werker ordered the department to show the court why the regulation is necessary.

On February 3, plaintiffs won a small, initial victory when Werker turned down a motion made by U.S. attorney Suzanne Campbell that the New York suits be consolidated with another similar suit being brought by Planned Parenthood in Washington, DC.

An attorney for the Center for Constitutional Rights commented to *GCN* that, as a result of Werker's decision to hear the case here, the case will probably be decided this month instead of toward the end of this year.

The attorney added that every suit that crops up around the country is "one more bite out of the pie."

Campbell is expected to defend the regulation on the ground that it enforces a 1981 amendment to Title 10 of the Public Health Service Act, which states that clinics should encourage parental involvement in their teenager's use of contraceptives.

However, Congress passed the amendment as a response to the growing problem of teenage pregnancy, and in it the legislators stated that their priority was "to assist in making comprehensive voluntary family planning services available to all persons desiring such services."

Opponents of the regulation say that the administration is forcing — rather than encouraging — parental involvement, and that the result will be an increase in teenage pregnancies — the opposite of what Congress intended.

"The problem with the regulation is that teenagers won't go to clinics if they know that their parents will be notified," said Sarah Wunsch of the CCR.

CCR attorney Suzanne Lynn told *GCN* that this prediction is already being realized. Health workers in Green County report that, since the announcement of the new regulation, teenagers have cancelled appointments at family planning clinics there. Clinicians in Buf-

falo have discovered two teenagers using false identification.

New York state Attorney General Robert Abrams agrees with the CCR attorneys that the new requirement runs counter to the intent of the 1981 Congress.

On January 26, he told the court, "By destroying the confidentiality now assured, the new regulations will deter young women from obtaining needed family planning services. This will result in more teenage pregnancies at a social cost neither New York nor this nation can afford."

The new regulation also runs counter to the intent of Congress in that it would have a deleterious effect on the health of these young women as a group. These teenagers — especially those from low income families — would face a greater risk of sickness and death, said Wunsch, "since family planning clinics detect cancer and sexually transmitted disease. These kids won't get that now."

Both suits charge that the regulation, if activated on February 25, would violate the privacy rights of young women concerned and discriminate against them on the basis of their sex.

"Only young women will be affected by the notification requirement," reads the class-action suit brought by the attorneys for the Center for Constitutional Rights. "Only they will have to pay the price of unprotected sexual activity. It's a return to the era of sexual double standard and a violation of their right to privacy."

Attorneys for the CCR, the ACLU's Reproductive Freedom Project and the NYCLU are suing Schweiker on behalf of the Medicaid Health Research Association — a non-profit organization which includes nine clinics in New York City, two of which receive Title 10 monies.

Abrams' office is suing on behalf of the people of New York and the State Department of Health, which received four million dollars in Title 10 funds for use in 104 clinics last year.

Solidae Santiago, the attorney general's press officer in New York City, said that, in New York state alone, approximately 45,000 wom-

en under 18 attend family planning clinics yearly. About half of these women discuss this with their parents. Health workers estimate that, if this regulation goes into effect, 15,000 women under 18 — about a third of those who would have begun attending family planning clinics this year — will stay away.

Santiago continued, "The government has estimated that in 1979 alone over 400,000 teenage pregnancies were averted because of Title 10 money. That meant 117,000 teenage births were averted, 250,000 teenage abortions were averted, 50,000 teenage miscarriages averted."

"The Reagan administration has a moral agenda. But morality lies in dealing with the real world. If these young people are sexually active, then it isn't moral to close our eyes to the consequences of that — unhealthy pregnancies, teenagers dropping out of school, unwanted children."

Former Massachusetts Congressperson Margaret Heckler, recently appointed by Reagan to fill Schweiker's shoes, signed a letter opposing the parental notification regulation when the Department of Health and Human Services proposed it last year. Heckler, a proponent of the Equal Rights Amendment but opposed to legal abortion, is withholding comment about the future of the parental notification regulation until after Congress confirms her appointment this month, a spokesperson told *GCN*.

The regulation, if enacted, would apply only to women under 18 who go to a clinic funded by Title 10 to receive prescription contraceptives for the first time. In addition, the regulation mandates that "Title 10 clinics" charge these women fees based, not on their own income, but on their parents' income. If a teenager does not know the extent of her parents' resources, the clinic would be required to contact her parents to get this information. Only those young women who can prove that they would be harmed if their parents were contacted by the clinic may be exempted from the notification requirement.

Santiago called the regulation "hypocritical . . . when you con-

sider the emphasis placed by this administration on state's rights and individual freedom. This is interference in one of the most private acts that an individual can be involved in."

Wunsch said she suspects the administration is attempting to score points with the right wing by attempting to enforce a regulation "which sounds pro-family but which they know has tremendous legal problems and will be struck down by the courts."

"This regulation is a fraud — like the so-called Family Protection Act. You don't promote communication with a family by having a letter come from the federal government. And the Family Protection Act has nothing to do with protecting the family against all the things troubling it today — lack of adequate housing, no jobs, food that will poison us."

Santiago said she is "very optimistic" that the court will issue a temporary injunction on February 3 and eventually strike down the regulation on constitutional grounds.

During the "comment period" which followed the proposal of the parental notification requirement last winter, the attorneys general of 39 states, representing their state health departments, informed the Department of Health and Human Services that they opposed the regulation. No states came out in support of it.

This opposition to government interference in the sex lives of young women reflects significant progress in the fight for reproductive and sexual freedom, according to Rhonda Coplon of the CCR. Coplon made the following observation at a recent rally commemorating the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade*: "We have only to look back a decade to realize that we have . . . made real material changes in what is available to women in terms of reproductive rights. We have affected the dialogue on sexuality so that when the state wants to notify parents that their teenage daughter is pregnant, that she is sexually active, there is an enormous outcry against that kind of regulation."

— filed from Boston



Pride brunchers (l to r), Lynn Tibbetts, Sandy Smith and Zev Ben-Michael.

**PRIDE '83 — CELEBRATE!**  
The Boston Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee held its first planning meeting on January 30 at a brunch sponsored by Sporters Cafe.

The parade and rally, highlights of the two-week celebration, are set for June 18. The Pride Committee expects cooperation from the city this year, so that last minute alterations of the parade route will be avoided.

Stressing the need for input from the community, co-chairs Jim Anderson, Marsha Levine and Carl Houston addressed the gathering of 40 men and women. Some ideas proposed to the committee included a suggestion that the rally be held

preceding the march. This was supported by the audience.

A second suggestion was to hold a cultural festival with music and refreshments following the march. Responding to this and other ideas, the chairs said that all suggestions will be considered by active Pride Committee members and that all Pride events depend upon the willingness of individuals to assume organizing responsibilities.

The next meeting has been set for February 13 at noon at Sporters Cafe, 228 Cambridge St., Beacon Hill. Anyone interested in serving on the Pride Committee to plan the 1983 celebration is encouraged to attend the meeting or call 262-4777 for more information.

## Northampton

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"resistance," says Spooner. "One of the things that all the threats have in common is that they want us to be quiet. The only way to stop this is to be open and public."

Committees are working to circulate petitions demanding that police take action; to write letters to media and progressive groups in the valley; and to stay in contact with the police.

Some lesbians told *GCN* that police are not taking their harassment reports seriously.

"I brought them the tapes of some of the phone calls," said Birdfish. "I've heard nothing about them since. Once they know what I'm calling about, no one that I ask for is in — even though I called back when they told me I could catch them."

Birdfish added that, although some women reported to the cops the license plate number of a silver-gray van which matches the description of the vehicle used to abduct two of the rape and assault victims, "police haven't done a thing with that information."

Spooer fears that individual police officers may know members of SHUN — or are themselves members.

"The fact that they [the callers] have waited to leave messages and left hand-written evidence indicates to me that they don't believe they are going to be ap-

prehended, that they have friends in 'higher places.' This is a small town. Everybody knows everybody. That 'ol boy' chuminess."

Detectives would make no comment to *GCN* other than to say that the rapes and phone calls are under investigation.

Seargent Gerald LeVitre said that the police are taking this complaint as seriously as all others, "but the law around annoying calls is difficult to enforce. You've got to prove that a person is doing it deliberately. You've got to have a tap placed on the line."

Birdfish and others have refused to have taps placed on their phones "because we don't trust the telephone company and the government."

LeVitre implied that the police had not attempted to match a suspect's voice with the voice on Birdfish's tape.

The mayor has invited city officials, members of the Pioneer Valley Gay People's Alliance, and others to meet to discuss the harassment on February 8.

Marcia Burick, the mayor's assistant, told *GCN*, "I wish they [the victims] had brought this to our attention earlier. We weren't aware of it."

"If there are any cases of non-responsiveness by the police, we need to hear about them. Then we can determine how to change that. But I've never heard any bias on the part of the police. Maybe it's an issue of sensitivity — people don't run around saying 'nigger'

anymore. They'd die before they'd say it."

Burick thinks the local press needs to become "more sensitive." "There has been a series of hate letters in the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* which the editor has happily printed (while this harassment has been going on) . . . . Police say some of the authors of the letters don't exist. We want to lay on the line the issue of accountability and responsibility of a free press. I think the press has a responsibility to check these letters before printing this garbage."

Don Houghton, editor of the *Gazette*, told *GCN* that the paper's librarian does verify the identity of authors of all letters to the editor which arrive in the mail, but that some hand-delivered letters "slip by."

Houghton also defended his printing of numerous anti-lesbian, anti-gay letters on the grounds that he feels "a responsibility to present the broad spectrum of community views on the editorial page." He added that the discussion of "controversial subjects" is "healthy intellectual exercise."

Houghton also ran two virulently anti-homosexual pieces by syndicated columnist Joseph Sobran of the *National Review* in January. Shortly after it was published, Spooner received this message at the bookstore: "The paper is right. Homosexuals must be eradicated."

— filed from Boston



# Community Voices

## epilepsy

Dear GCN,

As a GCN reader/contributor — and as a victim of seizure-disorder, connected, I believe, to my homosexuality, I want to express sincere gratitude to Maida Tilchen and the epilepsy victims she interviewed in the December 11 GCN issue.

Five years ago upon my return home here, I picked up a 19-year-old for a ride on my bike in the woods near Old Coney amusement park. He robbed me and beat my head so severely I was unconscious for five days after taken to the hospital.

Further medical investigation is due, but I attribute my four subsequent seizures partly to that brain damage. (I've had two at home, one on Fountain Square in public view, and one live on the radio.)

As most Americans, I've been ignorant and silent too long about seizure disorders. More than two million people in this country have epilepsy, a nervous disorder second only to mental retardation. Why has research, funding, and public interest been so slow in coming? Ms. Tilchen told one important reason why. Epileptics and people with other forms of this malady have hidden in their own closet. As her centerspread GCN article revealed, people with seizure disorder have been stigmatized, misinformed, and overlooked for ages. A person I am (or should be) very close to, has had epileptic-like seizures, yet I learned late, only after "coming-out" to her that I too, have experienced these strange convulsions in front of others who think them weird, scary, and in need of immediate medical help. To supplement the GCN special report on epilepsy, let me make reference (in review) to a recent book called *Epilepsy* (Little, Brown) authored by three doctors — one an educator, another an MD, and one with a PhD. Their names are Arthur A. Attwell, Gregory O. Walsh, and Allen H. Middleton. Their book has made me more secure, more health conscious.

The doctors point out in a Q & A format that if your friend (lover, acquaintance or passer-by) falls victim to a seizure, be cool. Just make sure the victim cannot hurt him/herself. (Don't worry about tongue swallowing.) Dispatch curious on-lookers. Help the victim upon recovery by offering assurance and help in finding a spot to rest afterwards. If the seizures repeat immediately, call an ambulance for hospital care. Otherwise, all's okay. Recommend the L,B book or local Epilepsy Council help. Inexpensive, safe medication to prevent seizures is available.

An epileptic friend/lover may (slightly) experience a psychological lower sex drive and sporadic impotence/frigidity, according to the authors. "Seizures have sometimes been triggered by anxiety during (or immediately) after the act." Otherwise, no problem, they say.

We should all keep in mind that anyone can have a seizure when under specific stressful situations. In almost ¾ of cases reported, no definitive cause can be found. Speed-reading this book could provoke a seizure, as could strobe lights, unexpected touches and noises, or other reflex experiences. Major illnesses (especially when coupled with high fever) sleep deprivation, alcohol-/pot/drug withdrawal, and menstruation can also provoke seizures.

*Epilepsy* documents the need for more research dollars and citizen support. We all need to follow Maida's advice (adopt a victim who's afraid to go out, *et al*), join local epilepsy societies, start gay subcommittees, get involved.

Here's yet another example of how we victims need to be informed. Thanks, GCN, for helping us continue.

John Zeh

Cincinnati, OH

Gay Community News welcomes letters to Community Voices. If at all possible, your letters should be TYPED AND DOUBLE SPACED and kept to three pages (or less!) in length. GCN publishes all the letters it receives, unedited, on a space-available basis, unless they contain personal attacks. Anonymous letters will not be published, but names will be withheld upon request. Address letters to: Community Voices, Gay Community News, 167 Tremont St., 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02111.

## taking sides

Dear GCN:

I have been following the letters about the Middle East in Community Voices for the last several weeks. And, as usual in debates and discussion of this issue, I find that most people seem to feel the need to take sides. They seem to think either that their side is good, honorable, the victim of media distortion, or that it at least is the lesser of two evils. I think that either approach is bound to lead to more of the same in the Middle East.

All sides in the current conflict are interested in one thing: political power. The Zionists wish to defend their power, the PLO wishes to attain similar power, and the Lebanese government wants to reassert its power. And they all base their power or desire for power on nationalism: the idea that their ethnic or religious group is somehow better of at least very different from (and incompatible with) all others. This ideology inevitably leads to oppression of and attacks on the "other," whether arab or jew.

The only way to begin to solve the problems of the Middle East (and the rest of the world, for that matter) is to reject *all* of the parties of the current conflict, to reject *all* governments and nations. Both arabs and jews should fight their various oppressive governments and leaders, either as individuals or in voluntary alliances, but on the basis of their shared humanity, not their language or religion or skin color. After all, both arab and jewish politicians are butchering innocents in the Middle East, and darker-skinned jews suffer discrimination within Israel. The only reason the Zionists have killed more people is because of their superior military might, not because of restraint on the part of the PLO.

Progressives should stop supporting either side. The lesser of two evils is still evil. The only way that individual liberty will be increased in the Middle East (and everywhere) is by rejecting government and substituting individual self-rule for political power.

As we anarchists say, there's no government like no government.

Joe Peacott

Boston, MA

## enemies

To the Editors:

I am totally shocked, bewildered, and saddened to have read the column entitled "Middle East" by Shelly Ettinger.

Jews have enough enemies outside our own ranks. Now we have enemies from within.

I refuse to lower myself to Ms. Ettinger's gutter level, and will not offer a refutation of her twisted historical analysis.

Yes, Ms. Ettinger is displaying anti-Zionism, and yes, anti-Zionism is anti-Semitism; for a questioning of the very right of Israel to exist is an assault on Jewish existence world-wide.

Howard Heyman

Brookline, MA

## many factors

Dear GCN:

Hugh Murray's arguments in favor of age of consent legislation, as articulated in his letter appearing in your January 29th issue, seem to me to be overly simplistic and largely beside the point.

Mr. Murray argues that, because it is unethical for an adult to have sex with a newborn infant, age of consent laws are therefore necessary. However, in his rush to *reductio ad absurdum*, he fails to recognize a large group unjustly penalized by the age of consent laws. In truth, as Mr. Murray claims, sex between an infant and an adult would clearly seem to be exploitative in, perhaps, all instances. But how about the case of an eighteen-year old who has sex with a seventeen-year old? On its face, this case would seem to involve a non-exploitative relationship just as clearly as Mr. Murray's case seems to involve an exploitative one. And, I submit that there are many more eighteen-year olds having sex with seventeen-year olds in America today than there are intergenerational relationships of any kind. Yet, the eighteen-year olds (in my state) and Mr. Murray's baby rapers (sic) are at equal legal risk. And, especially if the eighteen-year olds are gay, the penalties may be opportunistic, draconian and traumatic. This seems to be an example of a bad, overkill law.

If this were a straightforward matter, one would suppose that, somewhere between Mr. Murray's case and mine, there is a borderline between exploitative and non-exploitative instances of sex across the age of consent line. However, this is not a straightforward matter. Whether of nor a relationship of any kind can be considered exploitative depends on many more factors beside the age of the participants. I look askance at anyone who would deny that seventeen-year olds, and even very much younger individuals exist who are capable of benefitting emotionally from a close relationship with an older person. If the older person is emotionally experienced and his interest in the younger person's welfare is his primary concern, it shouldn't matter at all whether the relationship is sexual or not. At the same time, no one can deny that exploitative relationships exist between individuals of equal age. Examples even abound of younger persons exploiting older ones. Therefore, age seems to be a poor basis for evaluating this matter.

However, to formulate all the factors separating exploitative relationships from non-exploitative ones into actual legislation seems, at the least, to be a very difficult task. So: what to do? Mr. Murray's solution, cleverly deduced by him from pure reason, is to endorse the status quo, in which age of consent laws put more people at a clearly unjust risk than they put to a deserved risk. This does not seem terribly reasonable to me.

What does seem clear to me is that the age of consent laws, as presently constituted, are unjust and should be abolished. Now, I don't have any magic solution as to what should be done, instead. But I can think of some possibilities.

(A) Abolish all age of consent legislation, and rely on existing statutes against rape and kidnapping to protect the very young against the truly predatory. Develop a bill of children's rights to reinforce that protection.

Or, (B), use age in a more imaginative way. Mandate that in a relationship involving a very young person (perhaps someone younger than thirteen or fourteen, the age of puberty) the older partner must not be more than a specific number of years older—say, no more than five years older. This would allow the kids to keep it among themselves.

Or, (C), if no one can suggest a better alternative to some kind of across-the-board age of consent limit, at least lower it considerably. Lowering it to the age of puberty makes some sense. Since human bodies do make a decision as to when they are physically ready for sexual contact, this alternative would bring human law into coordination with human physiology.

These suggestions are all admittedly imperfect. However, all of them would protect the very young from the worst abuses while eliminating a current injustice to a much larger group. There are probably even better ways to do the same thing.

The one factor that seems to have been missing from this debate all along is some discussion of exactly how society's laws in this matter should be restructured to eliminate their patent injustices while still protecting the incompetent from the unscrupulous. I would be gratified if my suggestions spurred some positive, constructive thinking along these lines.

Sincerely,  
Bill Leubrie  
Chicago, IL

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### NEW YORK DISTRIBUTION

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Second-class postage paid at Boston, Mass. Annual subscription rate is \$25. ISSN: 0147-0728. Member New England Press Association, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. COSMEP Member.

GCN is included in the Alternative Press Index, which is published quarterly by the Alternative Press Center, Inc., Box 7229, Baltimore, MD 21218.

Volumes 1-8 of GCN are available on microfilm for \$22/volume. Write GCN/Microfilm for more information.

Opinions reflected in "editorial" represent the views of the editorial board. Signed letters and columns reflect the views and opinions of the authors only. Comments, criticisms, and information are always welcome from our readers: remember, it's YOUR paper!

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## ADVERTISEMENT

# An open letter to the gay community on hepatitis B

## Hepatitis B, a serious disease, may be sexually transmitted

Sexually transmitted diseases among the gay community are epidemic. Herpes has recently received a lot of attention; gonorrhea and syphilis are well known; but the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently issued a major recommendation for the prevention of another sexually transmitted disease: Hepatitis B. In their *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, the CDC stated: "Susceptible homosexually active males should be vaccinated [against hepatitis B] regardless of their age or duration of their homosexual practices."

## Gay men are at a high risk of contracting hepatitis B

In one study, from 51% to 76% of 3,816 gay men seen in five sexually transmitted disease clinics had evidence of past or present hepatitis B infection. Once infected, there's a 6% to 10% chance of becoming a carrier—capable of passing on the virus. The CDC estimated there are nearly 1 million carriers in the United States and that 100,000 of these carriers are gay men.

## The hepatitis B virus can be passed on by contact with contaminated body fluids

such as saliva, urine, semen, and blood. The hepatitis B virus can be transmitted through tiny breaks in the skin or contact with mucous membranes. This can occur during intimate sexual contact and can lead to hepatitis B for the partner of an infected person. Although most patients recover and over half contracting hepatitis B do not get symptoms, there is no specific treatment and no known cure for hepatitis B infections.

## Hepatitis B may lead to even more serious complications

For those who do get symptoms of hepatitis B, a mild or severe "flu-like" sickness may continue for weeks or months. Ten percent of all infections become long lasting (chronic) with potential complications that are sometimes more serious than those of other sexually transmitted diseases. The serious complications include the chronic carrier state, chronic active hepatitis, chronic persistent hepatitis, cirrhosis, and even cancer of the liver. Every year almost 4,000 carriers die of cirrhosis. In addition, carriers have a risk 273 times greater than that of the general population of contracting a usually fatal form of liver cancer.

## Now this serious sexually transmitted disease is usually preventable by vaccination with the new hepatitis B vaccine

After more than a decade of research and development, a new vaccine is available for prevention, *not treatment*, of hepatitis B. In clinical studies, the vaccine was highly effective in preventing hepatitis B infection and was generally well tolerated. No serious adverse reactions occurred in these studies.

The vaccination regimen consists of a series of three injections, the first two a month apart and the third, six months after the first. To be effective, the vaccine must be given before a person gets hepatitis B. The vaccine helps prevent the disease: It is *not effective as a treatment*. We suggest that you consult your doctor to determine if you should be vaccinated.

**For more information  
about hepatitis B and the  
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### Why you should consult your doctor or clinic

The vaccine helps protect against infection caused by hepatitis B virus. This virus is an important cause of viral hepatitis, a disease mainly of the liver. Even mild forms of this disease may lead to serious complications and aftereffects, including liver cancer. There is no specific treatment for viral hepatitis.

Vaccination is recommended for persons who have a higher risk of becoming infected with hepatitis B virus because of frequent, close contact with infected people or exposure to body fluids from such people. It will not

protect against hepatitis caused by viruses other than hepatitis B virus.

No serious adverse reactions were reported in over 6,000 individuals receiving the vaccine in clinical trials. The most frequent reaction was soreness at the point of injection; less common local reactions included redness, swelling, warmth, or formation of a hard, lumplike spot. The local effects were usually mild and lasted no more than 2 days after vaccination. Occasionally, low-grade fever (less than 101 °F) occurred. When it did, it usually lasted no longer than 48 hours following vaccination. In

rare cases, fever over 102 °F was reported.

More generalized complaints including malaise, fatigue, headache, nausea, dizziness, muscle pain, and joint pain were reported infrequently. Rash was reported rarely. As with any vaccine, broad use may reveal additional adverse reactions.

Your doctor or clinic knows what special care must be taken when administering the vaccine and in determining who should receive the vaccine. The vaccine is not intended for persons who are allergic to any of its components.



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Point of View, Three figures

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Works by Carla Cooper, George Fifield, Katie Conway, Jaye R. Phillips, Hal Thurman and Sherry Edwards. At the Paul Lampos Gallery, Brockton Art Museum, Oak Street, Brockton, Massachusetts, now through February 13th. Brockton Art Museum is open Tues-Sun, Noon-6 PM. Call (617) 588-6000 for directions or more information.

By f.w. leupold

One can wonder if in 1938, when Chester Carlson invented his electro-imaging copier, he realized the artistic uses to which it would be put. After viewing "Electrographics," there is no question that his utilitarian machine is a legitimate and even established medium, which through its accessibility will provide the static mirror of us for future generations. Not only does the Brockton ex-

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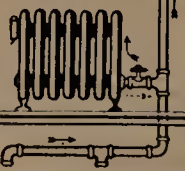
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# Electrographics

Continued from preceding page

hibition more than adequately demonstrate the variety of the medium, it reveals a startling breakthrough, more on that later.

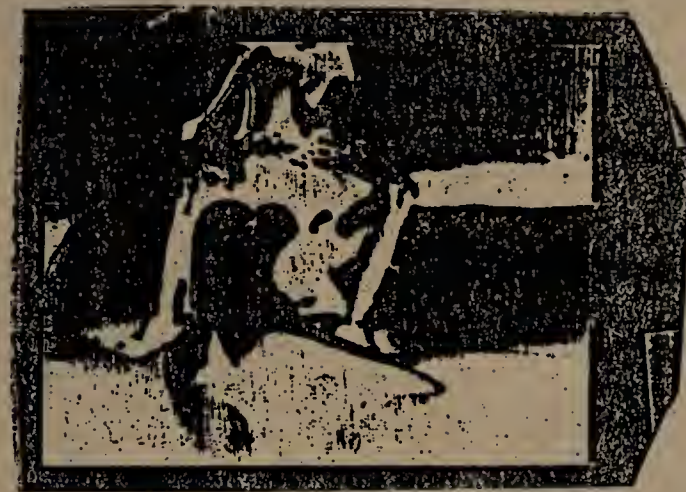
It is interesting to note that the six artists represented have chosen forms of nature as subjects, almost as if to compensate for the non-organic process they employ. Carla Cooper demonstrates an intimate relationship with flora. Her works in this show evolve from color xeroxed photographs of bushes collaged against metallics (1974-75) to the elegance of the more current "Leaves which arrived in the night," where she uncomplicatedly places live leaves upon simply printed wallpaper, then produces the image in muted opposing hues.

George Fifield presents the documentation possibilities of electrocopying through his "Elvis, Sam Cooke, Jim Morrison: a rock 'n' roll tabloid." Affordable xerox printing makes alternative cultural histories now a reality, much as the invention of the printing press opened knowledge to those outside the nobility. Katie Conway also explores documentation, but in a personal context. Her observations are those of the artist trapped by the limitations imposed by form. Conway, in order to avoid this trap, hand colors her

presentations.

Jaye R. Phillips finds a synthesis between beachscapes and flora, both separately and in collage. Her most interesting contribution, however, is in presentation. She not only plays with viewers' abilities to perceive depth (a trick imminently possible in this medium and deftly demonstrated by the aforementioned Ms. Cooper), but shows us how it can be exploited to observe the fourth dimension. Her accorded book, using the simplicity of flowering, reveals process.

Hal Thurman exemplifies the collage possibilities of electrographics in his "brecht und weill werks." He shows both the completed book and outtakes from his visual encapsulations of these German geniuses of alienation. Using moderate values and high intensity hues he gives his palette of secondaries the sheen of neon, complimenting the authors' depiction of decadence. Close range viewing of his works was necessitated by the placement of a folding screen about a foot from them. This acoutrement as well as the incursion of a wedding party picture taking session amidst the show (complete with fully trained bridal gown, pill box hats on female attendants, and a best man



Point of View, Three figures

with a three aspirin headache) provided a perfect counter point to the show's new wave context, but prevented a long range look at Mr. Thurman's creations.

Now for the breakthrough. Sherry Edwards, director of Plastic Image, an electrographic studio and gallery in Boston's South End (16 Thayer St.) and GCN staffer, has already delighted this viewer with her experiments in image transfers and her incisive eye for combining pattern, color, and form into maestraworks. Her *lesbioticism* derived from video images and reduced to choreographed calligraphic statements through electrographics, as well as her acetate quilts are well known. For the Brockton show Ms. Edwards has combined these forms with yet another, slumped glass, to move into the third dimension. This is an interesting development for any artist, but it is most glorious here. Ms. Edwards hangs an acetate quilt of her electrically colored image in front of a light source and a piece of slumped glass, revealing the female form, is then hung about four inches in front of the quilt. Viewed head on, the piece is an interesting construct, but from the side, it shows the genius of its creator. What we

Continued on page 12

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by Michael Bronski

## A New Trend in Town

"My heart belongs to daddy."

— Mary Martin, *Leave It To Me* (1948)

There has been a curious revolution going on for the past five years in gay male iconography. It is evident in porno movies, in both soft and hard core flesh magazines, in the changing fashions of dress and accoutrement, but most importantly in how men are looking and feeling about themselves and others. At the risk of sounding like a *Cosmopolitan* hype: the older man is *in*, he's *hot*, the newest fantasy, the best fuck-buddy.

I had sort of noticed that something was going on during the late '70s when every now and then a new trend appeared on the pulp porno novel racks: *Daddy's Biker Boy*, *Truckstop Daddy*, and the alliterative, but clumsy, *Father's Little Fucker*. And although the most telling titles were concerned with a father/son relationship, many of the other novels featured older men/younger men relationships. These were not the ever popular "chicken" books — boy-love novels usually have titles like *School's Out* and *Teacher's Pet* — but books in which the younger man was maybe 34 and the older man anywhere from 45 upward. And since there is no better pulse to a popular trend than the sexual imagination, I started wondering.

I didn't have to wonder long. Within the next few months I was watching the Gage Brothers' sequel to their *Kansas City Trucking Company* — *The El Paso Wrecking Company* (both some of the best quality male porn around) — and what had flickered through my mind months earlier was full fleshed on the screen. Towards the end of the film one of the older workers (Fred Halstead) begins having sex with the son of the owner of the eponymous wrecking company. They are really going at it when the boy's father walks into the garage. All three look at one another — a moment of tension here — and by mutual consent worker and son continue to fuck while dad stands in the corner whips out his cock, and starts to beat off. Aside from the familial situation it was just another fuck-scene-in-another-fuck-movie but the wave of excitement and tension that suddenly swept through the usually bored audience betrayed that something had hit a raw nerve. A collective unconscious quake had been released and the after-shock was reverberating throughout the theater.

Whatever causes this latent, hidden cathexis — some mixture of the cultural, emotional, and psychological — it has been drifting to the surface with more frequency than ever before. Several months ago *Drummer* magazine began running a series entitled "Drummer Daddies". It featured photos, letters, and fantasies concerning older and younger men. The idea was not only hot, it was *red hot*. (Or as they might say on Gay Madison Ave: They ran it up the flag pole and everybody went down on it.) Letters began pouring in and the series expanded. Last month *Drummer* issued a special issue dedicated solely to that topic. Similar desires are also voiced in the magazine's personals. Some of the correspondents are actually looking for a father or son fantasy to act out; most are just looking for an older or younger man to fool around with.



This social change is deeper than just slick magazine puff. The last few years have exhibited a new trend in the gay male bars across the country. While there have always been (at least for the last 20 years) S/M bars, more recently there has been an upsurge of levi/leather or butch bars. On the surface they catered to a group of people wearing similar clothing (from heavy leather to butched-up clone). It is also true that the clientele was also older, less collegiate than you might find in a dance bar or a disco. The cult of the "pretty young thing" — so long prevalent as both a stereotype and reality of gay life — is slowly being countered by the image of the experienced, mature gay man who is attractive and intelligent. Just as the growth of the disco industry catered to a rising young gay market, the L/L bars provided both a meeting place and a newly formed identity for another segment of the gay community.

This is a fairly new image for the homosexual male. For years in the popular imagination, he had always been the sissy school teacher, the slender clerk in the ladies' shoe store, the foppish musical comedy chorus boy. Now, suddenly, he is the professional, respectable, mature, thinking man who knows what he wants and has a place in the world. His garments are no longer "proper" and the crowd that could once be identified as wash and wear is now more likely to look rough and ready.

A fine example of the upset this caused people can be found in Midge Decter's piece "The Boys on the Beach" in last year's February *Commentary*. She goes on at length about the Fire Island fairies of the '50s: "The largest number of homosexuals had hairless bodies. Chests, backs, arms, even legs were smooth and silky. We were never able to discover why there should be so definite a connection between what is nowadays called their sexual preference and their smooth feminine skin. Was it a matter of hormones?" Decter goes on to bemoan the big, bruising hunks of male flesh she now sees walking around the Village: they just aren't the sweet, harmless queens she knew in The Pines thirty years ago. The joke, of course, is on her. They probably *are* the same sweet queens. Times change and with them notions of sexual attractiveness and social acceptability. During the last decade many gay men have been grinding against the popular stereotype and coming to terms with the fact that they are men — hence creating a new popular stereotype.



# My heart

## Two Memories and a Coda

"All women become like their mothers. That is their tragedy. No man does. That's his."

—Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*.



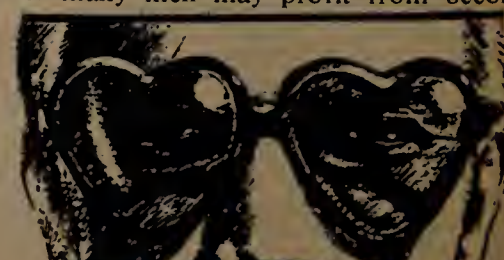
I have a very clear memory — from somewhere in the third grade — on the school bus looking at an older boy. I must have been about 7 or 8, he no more than 12. But I can remember feeling an intense amount of admiration and unspecified desire for him. The specifics of that memory have blurred around the edges: I couldn't say his name or what he looked like. But the impact of the occasion was so strong that I don't think a month has gone by when I have not remembered sitting on the soft vinyl school bus seat watching him standing by front door talking to the driver.

There is another memory, fifteen years later, from a gay conference in Amherst, Massachusetts. It was an all male meeting and we were trying to sort out our lives, desires, feelings and politics. I recently found a notebook from that time, scribbles and notations from speeches, books read and half-formed ideas. On the bottom of a page, halfway through the journal I discovered: "all faggots must kill the father in themselves to be free." It came from a rousing speech that some man had recently extrapolated from Jill Johnston's essay "On a Clear Day You Can See Your Mother." Liberation, he claimed, came from a total rejection of patriarchy (fathers) and following the paths and lessons of matriarchy (women). It was a very attractive theory enhanced by the obvious mess our male dominated society had become.

The relationship between gay men and their mothers is almost a cultural given. All those years of being called momma's boys and sissies suddenly began to make sense. Freud blamed the mother for most everything. (Remember the old graffiti: "My mother made me a homosexual" — and it's almost inevitable rejoinder: "If I buy the wool will she make me one too?"). And then gay men turned the tables and *praised* their mothers for making them homosexual. (For while we had learned to turn the tables, we hadn't yet learned how dumb the basic game was.) Viewing both women and homosexuals as the outcasts of male dominated culture, we were able to begin forming a new identity.

Thinking about the Jill Johnston piece later I remembered another line of hers — from one of her *Village Voice* columns. She is having a fight with her mother who suddenly explodes: "Well, if you love women then why don't you love me?" It is a profound and disturbing thought — for any parent/child relationship — and it is no wonder that the lecturer at Amherst didn't try to incorporate it into the simpler politics of the early 1970s.

The ironic truth of the Oscar Wilde quotation is that the worst sexual role stereotypes are passed from parent to child: usually along same sex lines. Wilde's psychological insights — startling for 1894 — may seem somewhat commonplace now but the truth is still there: many men may profit from becoming





belongs to . . .

more like their mothers. But co-existent with the ironic truth is the obvious truism that, as much as men may learn from their mothers, they are also men and, as such, have a strong relationship with their fathers.

Relationships are a learned experience. We learn them as infants, as children, as young adults. We learn them first from our parents, then from siblings, then from friends. Women have argued that they have learned to love their mothers by loving themselves and vice versa. On some level gay men have learned to love themselves and other men by loving their fathers. How many gay men would be able to answer if their fathers ever posed Jill Johnston's question to them: "If you love men then why don't you love me?."

In the struggle against patriarchy many have argued for a total rejection of the father. The family unit — which is patriarchal — is taken for a metaphor for all of patriarchy. Many times no distinction is made between the psychological, emotional, cultural or sociological factors involved. Some of the more extreme writers — like John Stoltenberg — even rile against erections as normal sexuality; he claims they are socially, not sexually, induced and that "the idea that they feel good — that they are sensate — is only a cultural illusion." This seems to be the ultimate in promoting self-negation under the guise of self-improvement. It doesn't bode well for a good self image, for loving yourself or for loving other men.

Gay male liberation owes a great debt to the second wave of feminism and while there has been male backlash to the women's movement, gay men cannot bear the unnecessary guilt for simply being male. Never stopping the fight against patriarchy, we must continue to explore our lives, past and present. In the final analysis change will mean very little if we don't ultimately like ourselves. Self-acceptance and self-love are learned attributes. My feelings for that boy on the bus, for my brothers, for my father and the other men in my family taught me, on a basic level, love for both them and for myself.



## Our Fathers, Ourselves

*"Once an angry man dragged his father along the ground and through his own orchard. 'Stop!' cried the groaning old man at last, 'Stop!' I did not drag my father beyond this tree."*

—Gertrude Stein, *The Making of Americans*

*"I am that father whom your boyhood lacked and suffered pain for lack of. I am he."*

—Odysseus, *The Odyssey* Book XVI



So much for memories that light the corners of my mind and back to some social reality. The fascination with the older man is not just a gay concern. Look at the Marlboro and Wrangler ads that fill the pages of *People* and *Time* magazine. Even the better men's stores in New York feature mature, well-groomed men to advertise their clothes on the pages of the *New York Times*. Although *Esquire* and *Playboy* still tend to stay with the younger, trendier models, many of the other magazines and products have opted for the experienced look.

The question of what or who is physically desirable is always in flux. The ideal woman of the 1920's was the flat chested, slim hiped, derriereless flapper. Yet not a scant thirty years later (not very long for cultural change) this ideal had changed into the big hiped, even bigger bosomed, platinum haired numbskull of Dagmar and Jayne Mansfield.

When viewed in conjunction with the age the "desirability" factor is even more variable. Age now looks, and sells, better. With the constant emphasis on youth in American culture it is no wonder that growing old is viewed not as original sin, but a very predictable, and unforgiveable one. In Europe or Asia when you get old you are considered wise; in America you lose your job, get put in a rest home and then die from inattention, bed sores and pneumonia because of federal cut backs in health care. It's no wonder no one wants to buy clothes not worn by the young; death never makes good ad copy.

Men have always aged better than women. Valued for their sexuality women — especially as represented by Hollywood — are over-the-hill at thirty. Men have it a little better. As the life expectancy has lengthened our cultural notions of aging and sexuality have also changed.

This scenerio is true for both straight and gay people. But homosexuals, as usual, function under the added onus of being "queer" and having a whole separate set of social expectations placed upon them. The most salient of these being self-hate. But the past ten years have brought changes in several areas all of which have produced changes in both the general culture and people's lives.

People are living longer so it is now all right to get older. The second important factor at play here is the baby boom. Suddenly in the '60s there was a sizable population the same age and the culture changed accordingly. Now that population is anywhere between 28 and 40 and the culture is still changing to suit their needs.

General culture dictates the nature of sexual de-

sirability. Before the last decade or so, it was (weak) women for heterosexual men and for heterosexual women it was (strong) men. For homosexuals — of either gender — well . . . That was the problem: there weren't supposed to be any homosexuals. But of course there were and the options then were few. If you look at the porn, or even the few mainstream novels that deal with gayness before Stonewall there is a very clear pattern. The typical gay man desired straight trade, hustlers, young boys. Anyone but another gay man. (Of course, the average gay man did have a lover, sex with other gay men, and gay male friends — but there was no social permission for these actions or feelings.)

In his autobiography Quentin Crisp elucidates the problem perfectly. In his life he is always in search of The Great Dark Man, a man who would be everything that Crisp felt he was not. This is an unsolvable problem. "The problem . . . is to set out to win the love of a 'real' man. If they succeed, they fail. A Man who 'goes with' other men is not what they would call a real man." It is with a sigh of relief that Crisp finally tells the reader later in the book that *there is no great dark man*. It is not only an unsupportable dream but a cruel hoax.

I think that the most profound change that Stonewall has had upon the lives and loves of gay men is the permission to like themselves. All of the legislation, all the civil rights, the social acceptability is very little compared to the self knowledge that you, yourself, are likeable, lovable.

Many of those baby-boom men who are now between 28 and 40 were ripe for coming out just before/—during/after Stonewall. It should be no surprise then that many of them are turning to one another. Feminism has also made enough inroads culturally that the old "cult" of masculinity is now somewhat damaged, in disrepair. Being a "man" no longer means what it did twenty or thirty years ago. All those sissies who were terrified of being beaten up, playing sports, and of repairing cars are now able to more comfortably identify with being male.

Many gay men grew up — and possibly continue to be — afraid of their fathers: he was "the great dark man"; the mysterious man to whom you were forever separate, outcast, even though it is most probably from your relationship with him that you learned the possibility of loving other men. Many gay men are now learning that there is no great dark man: they are becoming reconciled to themselves, their fathers, and their sexuality.

In the past few years I have taken to telling people that I like older men. It's a true enough statement as those statements go and every now and then it provokes interesting responses. But while writing this article I found myself faced with a curious paradox. In the past year five or six of the hottest, most exciting sexual experiences I have had have been with men ten years younger than myself. At first I was confused, then I suddenly realized that *they* were into older men. It was both a satisfying and pleasing realization.

I have a friend who, in his living room, has a turn-of-the-century daguerreotype of his grandfather on the wall. It is a studio portrait; he is a bull of a man, a blacksmith from western Massachusetts, sitting in his Sunday best, looking out from the sepia past. My friend is fond of pointing the picture out to visitors and noting how handsome his grandfather is. It was only a little while ago that I noticed the striking family resemblance. I don't know if he has ever seen it but there is an air of self-acceptance and contentedness there.

It is no surprise that the image of the Older Man should be prevalent among gay men today. We must learn to ignore the pleas of Gertrude Stein's fictional father, give up our angers, and take — not drag — our fathers beyond the trees of our limitations. We have learned that we are worth loving, that we are many, and that we are desirable both as we are now and as we may become.

To paraphrase Pogo: We have met the sexual object and it is us.





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# Gay Games I

## Fond Memories, Difficult Questions



Former Olympians George Frenn (1972) and Susan McGrievy (1956) light flame with torch carried from site of the Stonewall riots.

By Robert Ellgas

From August 28 through September 5, 1982, gay history was made. Approximately 1500 athletes from 28 states and twelve countries converged on San Francisco for the first International Gay Athletic Games (GG I), and nearly 20,000 spectators were on hand to cheer them on. The Opening Day Ceremonies were a colorful and emotional spectacle which included a parade of athletes, marching bands, twirling and flag corps, Tina Turner, the lighting of the Gay (Olympic) Flame and the release of thousands of balloons to mark commencement of the Games. Over the next week, men and women from diverse backgrounds participated in eighteen sports ranging from boxing and billiards to physique, the marathon and volleyball. The Closing Day Ceremonies were highlighted by a performance of two original compositions sung by an 800 voice chorus (the West Coast Gay and Lesbian Choral Festival occurred simultaneously with the Games.) Stephanie Mills sang for one of the biggest Tea Dances ever, combining both athletes and spectators on the field in Kezar Stadium. Perhaps the most moving event of the day was when Meg Christian sang the Gay Games Anthem, "Reach for the Sky." In unison, athletes closed in on the stage, spontaneously clasped each other's hands high above their heads, and swayed to and fro in rhythmic waves, bringing tears to the eyes of many spectators.

Gay Games I was the grandest international demonstration that we are, indeed, everywhere. The athletes and spectators participating in these events took home with them the enthusiasm and spirit of the Games, and countless fond memories to share with their friends. Now several months have passed since the Games, and some hard questions remain to be answered concerning the image conveyed by GG I to both the gay and straight public, and the legacy the Games will leave for the future of gay athletics.

### Image Problems

Tom Waddell, Chairperson of the GG I Committee, said in *Christopher Street* early in the planning stages for the Games, that:

"The Gay Games are not separatist, they are not exclusive, they are not oriented to victory, they are not for commercial gain. They're intended to bring a global community together in friendship, to elevate consciousness and self-esteem, and to achieve a form of cultural and intellectual synergy."

The Games effectively demonstrated these noble intentions to both athletes and spectators by emphasizing participation over competition and by helping overcome the lack of visibility of gays in sports, but GG I suffered, and still suffers, from several image problems in the general gay and straight public.

The first image problem concerns athletics as a traditional-



Boston's mixed relay team. R to L: The author, Robert Ellgas; Shawn, Steve, and Judy.

ly male-dominated activity. With this problem in mind, Waddell found it extremely important from the beginning for women to take a leadership role in decision-making about the games. A Women's Out-reach Committee was formed to convince women that the Games were not an exclusively male activity (this Committee even sent two women to the Indiana Women's Music Festival to reach the hinterlands with the message of the Games). With the intent of bridging the gap between gay men and women by emphasizing teamwork and community to dispel stereotypes and build rapport and respect, the women on the GG I Committee chose not to name the Games the "Gay and Lesbian Games." This, coupled with several unfortunate advertisements in gay newspapers and magazines picturing only men, conveyed the wrong image to the gay community at large. This was perhaps best demonstrated by the disproportionately large number of spectators who were men.

However, GG I amply demonstrated that it was an activity for both women and men. The MC for Opening Ceremonies was Rita Mae Brown, Meg Christian sang the GG I Anthem, the GG I logo displayed on the Program and much of the advertising depicted three fleet-footed athletes — two women and one man — and both man and woman Olympians carried in the Torch to light the Flame. While these are just symbolic gestures, the concrete results of actual athletic participation in the Games attest to the equality of sexes: about half the athletes were women, and both billiards and the track and swimming relays had coed competitions. Indeed, the largest sport in the whole Games was softball, with 300-400 women participating.



Judy runs in Mixed Relay.

The second image problem concerns the perception of athletics as a bastion of heterosexuality and homophobia. Although gay people are increasingly "coming out" as athletes and acclaiming their gayness while participating in the sports they enjoy, some fear that gay participation in athletics actually represents a catering to straight institutions when we wear the same uniforms, play the same games and obey the same rules that straights do. Unfortunately, once again, it is possible that the GG I Committee has actually fostered such an image about the Games. In an interview with the *Advocate* (August 5, 1982), Waddell says that we, as athletes, wish "... to present ourselves in a way that's reasonable to the public at large." This statement leaves room for many to suspect GG I may have been an attempt to gain acceptance by appearing straight and conforming to straight values. Portrayals of the Games in straight (and some gay) media tended to emphasize interviews with those athletes who wished to prove to the straight world that gay people are not "all 'Dykes on Bikes' or drag queens" (according to Marsha Veale, co-coach of the San Francisco women's track and field team.) The Games themselves proved that whatever Waddell meant and despite the biased portrayal by many gay and straight media, most participants who were gay made no attempts to hide their gayness or garner straight acceptance. For example, the gay twirling corps and marching bands, Sistah Boom (a lesbian Samba band) leading the athletes into the stadium, and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence (as well as other gay male cheerleaders in drag) doing a very gay half-time show at the basketball playoffs, created proud spectacles that were uniquely our own. Both men and women athletes were frequently found embracing and kissing in congratulations or out of sheer exuberance at participating in their events — at being on the offensive, rather than the defensive. A sublime homoerotic undercurrent was ubiquitous and the straight spectators and participants (of which there were many) openly joined in the games' collective statement of pride and love.

### Where to Now?

Since the games the GG I Committee has been extremely lax in distributing follow up information to the participants and to gay athletes in general.

First, before the Games, there was talk by the GG I Committee of the formation of an International Athletics Committee to choose the site and format for Games II. Yet, during the Games there was not a call for volunteers to serve on such a Committee, and no subsequent request has yet been made. To convey the truly international spirit of the Games, more athletes must be solicited from other countries, and from third world countries in particular. Although there was a significant number of athletes from Europe, Canada and



"The grandest international demonstration that we are, indeed, everywhere."

Australia, no participants were registered from Africa, Asia, or Latin America. Such a Committee must also work, perhaps in cooperation with the International Lesbian and Gay Association, on facilitating acquisition of visas for gay visitors. Clearly none of this work can be accomplished without a request for volunteers, and in particular, volunteers from those athletes participating in GG I. It is dubious that the spirit of the Games will last forever without being effectively tapped now.

Secondly, the GG I Committee stated prior to the Games that all athletes would receive certificates recognizing their participation in the Games. It is known that these certificates have not been distributed to many athletes, indeed, many athletes placing fourth through sixth in their events still have not received award certificates recognizing their achievement (these award certificates were not given to many winners during the Games ostensibly because of a short supply).

Third, considerable controversy was created by the court injunction prohibiting use of the word "Olympic" by the GG I Committee [see News Notes, *GCN*, V. 10, No. 8, 9]. During the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, both the Acting Mayor of San Francisco, Doris Ward, and California Congressman Phillip Burton defiantly referred to GG I as the "Gay Olympic Games." Despite the enthusiastic applause offered for Burton and Ward's comments, neither the gay media nor the athletes have been apprised of the current status of this controversy. The legal battle will inevitably be a slow and arduous process. Yet it is essential that the GG I Committee keep our community up to date. *At the very least*, a press release should be issued for even seemingly minor steps in this important conflict.

On a final note, it must be pointed out that one of the most successful and well-organized aspects of GG I was the gracious provision of housing to all athletes by residents of San Francisco. This service, coupled with the provision of athletic facilities, transportation to these facilities and to and from the airport, and discounts to athletes in local restaurants and businesses, illustrated a unique coordination of the city's resources. But one must wonder whether San Francisco may be the only city in the country, if not in the world, capable of supporting such services while making the gay athletes feel most welcome. Clearly this is an issue which must be considered when planning a site for GG II.



Balloons fly high above Kezar Stadium at the opening ceremony.

Homosexuality and athletics will continue to demonstrate an increasingly visible and compatible synthesis as more open gay people participate in the sports they enjoy. As 2000 volunteer runners, walkers and cyclists carried the Torch across America from the original Stonewall site to Kezar Stadium, so too they carried the potential of the Gay Olympic Games. As Rita Mae Brown said during the Opening Ceremonies, "The real message of the Gay Games is that everyone's a winner."

The success of the Games lies within us all, but it remains to be seen whether the GG I Committee is committed to this belief, or whether the Games must be viewed as only an ephemeral dream.

Doug Stetson

Doug Stetson

1982 Kim Corsaro, Coming Up!

1982 Kim Corsaro, Coming Up!



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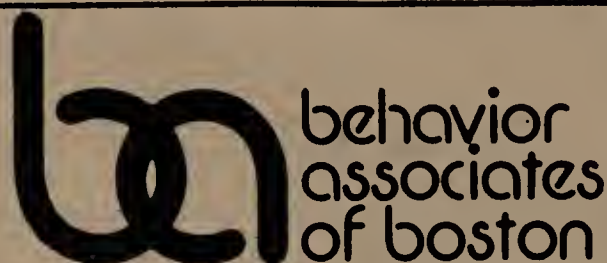
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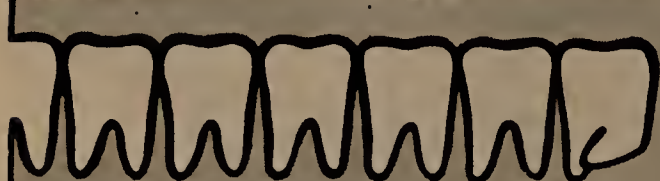
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## Electrographics

Continued from page 7

see is the colored light reproduced upon the glass' surface with the same intensity as in the cathode tube and xerox machine. Here is an artwork revealing the method of its evolvment, allowing the viewer presence at the moment of creation when the image is caught on the video screen and also when it is transferred on to the surface. The effect is startling and raised this viewer's gooseflesh. Ms. Edwards is also to be commended for the placement of her works. The slumped glass and quilts bookending enlarged two dimensional, black and white Poloroids, gives us clues as to the form of her abstractions.

*En toto*, the show is a delight which provides a comprehensive view of the medium. Hopefully someone will have the foresight and facilities to package and tour it. It is truly an educational exposition and deserves to be seen and studied. George Fifield provides the signature for the show by stating, "I find the machines never reproduce an image without seeming to add some comment of their own." Heading toward 1984, we need to reflect and examine what we, as well as what God, hath wrought.

Indeed it is these forms of women making love which engender the processes employed. In her search to present eroticism rather than pornography, Ms. Edwards has been lead to the nonexploitative use of herself and her lover freely entering into emotional and physical involvement. The initial video product from a stationary camera on tripod (avoiding voyeuristic exploitation by a non-involved cameraperson) was boring so she began taking black and white Poloroids off the video screen. The instant medium of Poloroid provides "political relevance framed by time." Through them "everyone becomes their own pornographer" and there's neither the worry of the Vice grabbing the goods you've sent away for developing nor the dependence upon monied individuals to produce their version of sensuality. These Poloroids are then enlarged by a stat camera or a copier with an enlarging feature, colored electrographically, transferred to acetate pieces, and fused or sewn together into quilts. The bed coverings also express Edwards' sensuality and are derived from her grandmother's patterns. Finally, the slumped glass harkens back to the artists' sculpture studies at West Virginia's Marshall University, and her sense of light forward to future holographic creations.



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# Tootsie and the Gender Benders

By Michael Bronski

There was a time when we could count on Hollywood to tell us what a real man was, or how a real woman acted. Now the big question is whether Dustin Hoffman is going to win his Oscar for best actor or best actress in *Tootsie*. Julie Andrews could even confound the problem further since in *Victor/Victoria* she gets to play not only a straight woman, an elegantly swishy gay man, but also a gay man impersonating a straight woman. Hell, even the kids in *E.T.* can't seem to make up their minds about the gender of their alien friend. This in fact may be the most telling trans-genderal scene in movies this year: the boys simply assume that E.T. is a boy while their wise cracking little sister presumes the opposite and dresses him accordingly. We see what we want to, we understand according to our experience.

This dislocation of gender roles in popular entertainment seems to have started with *La Cage Aux Folles*. This Gallic drag remake of *You Can't Take it With You* was a huge success at the box office while managing to present gay characters as comic though never foolish. The drag here was so integral to the characterization that it rose above the usual *Charlie's Aunt* routines of most other Hollywood movies. (The lead character did not need any flimsy excuse to put on a dress; he was a drag queen so it was perfectly natural.) While the first *La Cage* focused on sexual roles and styles of the characters *Cage II* switched to the gender roles. While hiding out in a small Italian Village the be-dressed Alban is appalled that he is consigned to the sphere of women's work — sewing, cooking, cleaning — and bemoans loudly: "I don't like being a woman in this country."

*Victor/Victoria* followed this same pattern. The film's first half dealt with the relationship between out of work soprano Andrews and flamboyant homosexual Robert Preston. Andrews even gets to lecture the homophobic James Garner on the varieties of sexuality. At times *Victor/Victoria* came close to breaking strict social prohibitions about homosexuality: no one knew who the real men were, never mind if they ate quiche or not. The film's second half — after Garner knows for sure that Andrews is a real woman — revolves much more



A straight woman, an elegantly swishy gay man, and a gay man impersonating a straight woman . . . Julie Andrews as *Victor/Victoria* in the movie of the same name.



Best actor or best actress? Dustin Hoffman as Dorothy Michaels with filmmaker Sydney Pollack who plays Michael's agent in *Tootsie*.

## PIRATES! Special Needs Show Cancelled

The Cauldron Experimental Theater has announced that its production of *PIRATES! A musical voyage into the future* (previewed last issue) is no longer wheelchair/special needs accessible due to the breakdown of the Theater's elevator. A special

needs performance originally scheduled for Friday, February 18 has been postponed indefinitely. *PIRATES!* will however, continue to be ASL interpreted for the hearing impaired. For more information about *PIRATES!* call the Cauldron at 542-8575.

around correct gender roles. And although homosexuality is a given in the film, which is rare enough in Hollywood, heterosexual men and women acted to their proper correct roles.

After *Victor/Victoria*, audiences had to sit through *The World According to Garp* which featured in the midst of its ugly misogyny a likable transsexual — in fact she was the only likable woman in the whole film. The implied moral here: the only good woman is really a man. And although it was nice to have a pleasant, nurturing transsexual on screen to offset the vicious, nasty portrayal of Michael Caine's murderous one in *Dressed to Kill*, the fact that it was done at the expense of women makes it inexcusable. Clearly a hot topic this year *Come Back to the 5 and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean* also featured a sympathetic transsexual. *Jimmy Dean* is such an idiosyncratic movie that it is difficult to draw larger social conclusions from it. What makes it interesting however

is that it does focus on the cult around James Dean. Dean (as well as Brando and Monty Clift) was perhaps the first male actor to bring a softer, less aggressive edge to Hollywood's notion of masculinity. Those sex and gender roles on and off screen began to change with their performances and nothing has been the same since.

But what James Dean hath wrought has ended up with Dustin Hoffman in *Tootsie*. By now everyone knows the plot: out of work actor gets job as soft spoken, slightly feminist actress on TV soap opera. *Tootsie* is not only popular but has turned out to be the runaway hit of the Christmas season — grossing over 27 million in the first month of its release. *Tootsie* is every bit as good as the critics claim. Hoffman's performance is wonderful and he manages to create a woman character who is not only sympathetic and believable but much more likable than the male character who plays her. The film's sexual politics are generally good — it's nice to see that Hollywood can

Continued on page 15

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## Gender Benders

Continued from page 13

finally admit that sexism exists and that women are treated badly. It is too bad that audiences may be more willing to hear a man as woman (rather than a woman herself) telling them these things, but it seems a step in the right direction. The movie also manages to avoid all the incipient, obvious queer-baiting jokes and handles a semi-lesbian scene (Hoffman falls for a straight woman who presumes he is a lesbian) with restraint and dignity. The film's final message is — rather *Ms.* magazine — if men could discover the women in themselves things would be a lot better (ignoring the question of “if this was the world's only problem things would be a lot easier, too.”)

The popularity of *Tootsie* is not all that hard to fathom. The film is well made and carries an easy answer to identity and relationship problems in which many people feel the crunch. What is a little bit surprising is how seriously, and deeply, these sentiments are being felt in the popular culture. Since *Tootsie* has been released Dustin Hoffman has given press conferences where he proclaims that playing a woman has opened his eyes. Just like in the film when actor Michael Dorsey (as Dorothy Michaels) discovers that men treat women badly and callously Hoffman has now seen the light. He became upset when he realized that he (Hoffman) would not talk to Dorothy at a party because she wasn't pretty enough; his anger was raised when he noticed that other men would look over his womanly shoulders for someone more attractive; he became so involved with the character of Dorothy Michaels that he actually broke down and cried because he realized he would never be able to give birth.

*Tootsie* is using its political message as a selling point (no crime, though a new twist in public relations). And while its message is not all that bad it is very cleverly packaged. In *Victor/Victoria* Julie Andrews lectures James Garner (and the audience) on sexuality. In *Tootsie* Hoffman reacts to the misogyny of the men with a vehemence that women are usually never allowed in our culture. In both cases audiences can listen to the characters and actually hear them simply because both characters are not who they seem to be; they are fifth columnists, interlopers in the battlefield of sexual politics. If a homosexual character or a real woman gave the speeches that Andrews and Hoffman give they would be written off as crackpots by the movie-going public.

Both *Victor/Victoria* and *Tootsie* manage to be truthful in a non-threatening sort of way. They address the shaken-up world of sexual and gender confusion with obvious (and not altogether wrong) answers. But what is the outcome of all this? I suppose that it's better than having more slash movies, but all the great brouhaha about how radical (some) Hollywood films have become is a bit premature. They are simply reflecting popular social confusion in a way that is a little more mature than most other movies.

The New York Times (1/16/83) has described the *Tootsie* phenomenon as “a perception of the failure of the patriarchy.” A statement that, like Mark Twain's death, is greatly exaggerated. Both *Tootsie*, and *Victor/Victoria* are very straight films. They essentially deal with straight people and their problems. (*Victor/Victoria* touched on other issues but then shied away from them.) Although better than nothing, the main achievements of *Tootsie* and *Victor/Victoria* is that they have managed to handle material, which usually ends up being homophobic or misogynistic, with humor and restraint. Things have gotten better in Hollywood, but they still have a long way to go.



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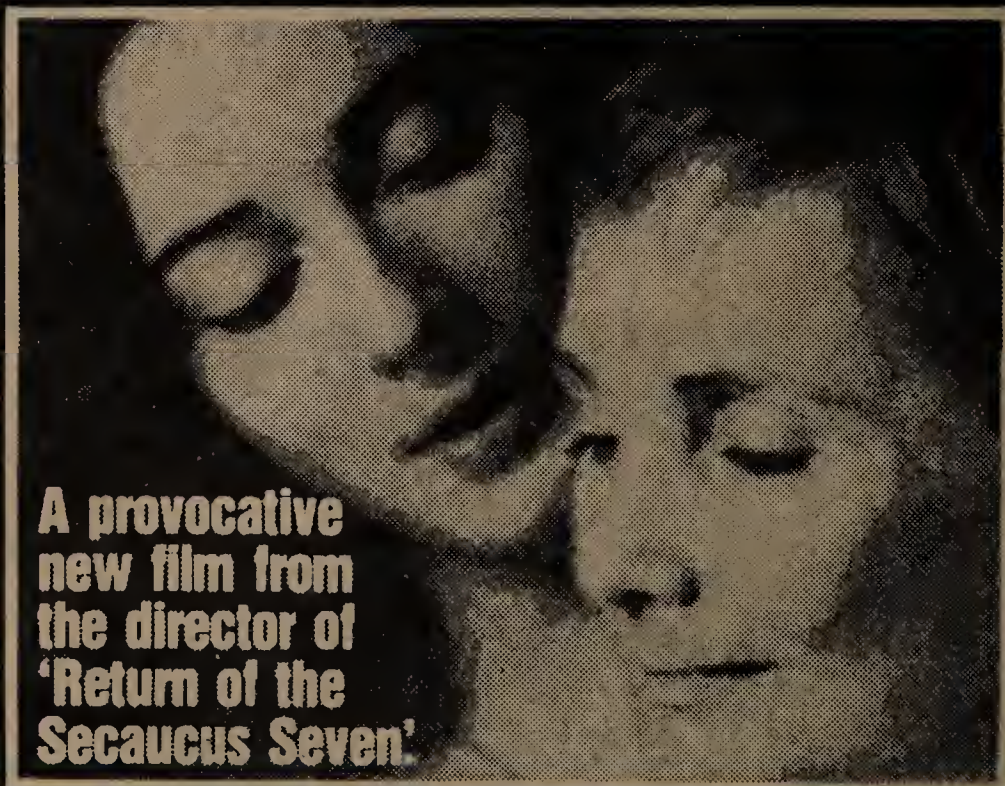
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# Calendar

## weekly events

### sunday

**Boston, MA** — Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth (BAGLY) drop-in center for youth 22 and under from 3:30-5pm at Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin St. (Beacon Hill). Info: 497-8282. Please send all BAGLY mail to: GCN, Box 10GY.

**Boston, MA** — Black and White Men Together of Boston meets at 2pm the second Sunday of the month at 57 E. Springfield St. (So. End). Info: Richard 247-3043 or Tom 536-3392

**Cambridge, MA** — Overeaters Anonymous, lesbian meeting. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass Ave. Sun eves 7:30 pm, DOB office.

**Framingham, MA** — Tricounty Assoc. (Framingham, Milford, Franklin area). Social and support group for gay and lesbian community. meets Suns. Info: 376-4323 or 473-3529.

**Boston, MA** — "Musically speaking," women's music, ideas, announcements. WMBR, 88.1 FM. 1-3pm.

**Boston, MA** — Gay and Lesbian Physicians of New England. Second Sundays. 2pm. Info: (617) 482-6874 or 247-5485

**Boston, MA** — Merrymount Music Society. Informal meetings and concerts for gay and lesbian musicians and music lovers. Info: 266-9423.

**Boston, MA** — "Sharing Voices," a monthly potluck supper and open reading for all women who write. First suns. Cauldron Experimental Theater, 22 Randolph St. (near Dover T Stop). 5pm info: 542-8575.

**Boston, MA** — Boston's Other Voice. (WROR, FM 98.5) 11:30pm.

**Orleans, MA** — Shoreline, a social group alternative to the bars on Cape Cod, meets second Sundays. Info: Box 1614. Orleans, MA 02653

**Acton, MA** — Central Middlesex Social Club meets at 7:30pm. Info: 263-4882. All are invited.

**Concord, NH** — Concord Area gay Youth, support group for youth 16-22, rap session and social time. Carpools & counseling available. Info: Scott or Joe 224-6931

**Keene, NH** — Potlucks and other fun get-togethers for lesbians. First Suns. (2pm) and third Tues or Wed (6pm). Info: Keene Klon-dykes. Box 261. Gilsun NH 03448

**Central VT** — Central Vermont Gay Men (CVGM) meets first Sun. of the month for socializing, business and a meal. Info: Box 42, Barre. 05641.

**Orono, ME** — Wilde-Stein Club. Social/support group for lesbians and gay men. Informal, friendly and open meetings. Peabody Lounge, 3rd fl., Memorial Union, UMO. 7pm

## coming events

**Brookline, MA** — A group for lesbian incest survivors will begin meeting Feb. 17. This ten week group will meet from 7-9pm every Thur. night. Group size will be from 6-10 members. Fee is on a sliding scale from \$10-25 per session. The group will be led by Lynn Sanford, LICSW and Laurie Levinger, LICSW. The group will be a therapeutic environment for lesbians to explore the impact of incest on their lives. Info: 566-0532 eve.

**Cambridge, MA** — Teresa Trull & Barbara Higbie in concert Feb. 17, First Church Congregational. Info: 547-5704.

**Hartford, CT** — Willie Sordill in concert at Trinity College, Feb. 18. Info: 233-2818.

**Wellesley, MA** — Margie Adam in concert at Wellesley College Feb. 19. Info: 235-0320 ex. 2670.

**Dorchester, MA** — Sweet Honey in the Rock in concert at the Strand Theater, Feb. 26. Info: 547-1378.

**Boston, MA** — Holly Near and Ronnie Gilbert in concert at the Berklee Performance Center Apr. 10. Info: 354-0008.

**Dorchester, MA** — Dorchester Women's Committee 6th annual celebration of International Women's Day will be held on March 12. Info: 825-1368.

**Northern VT/NH** — League of Gays (LOGS) meets third Suns. Info: (802) 626-3618 or write: Box 703, St. Johnsbury VT 05819.

**New London, CT** — Gay and Lesbian Community at Connecticut College meets 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Info: 442-7458.

### monday

**Portsmouth, NH** — Seacoast Gay Men. 7pm. Info: P.O. Box 1394, Portsmouth 03801.

**Northampton, MA** — Open Gay Men's Rap Group sponsored by Pioneer Valley Gay People's Alliance. 7-9pm. People's Institute, 38 Gothic St. Info: (413) 584-7903.

**Nashua, NH** — Nashua Area Gays meet 8pm. Info: Tony 424-3252, or write: Nashua Area Gays, Box 3472, Nashua 03061.

**Portsmouth, NH** — Diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases. Men and women. NH Feminist Health Center, 232 Court St. 5-6:30pm. Mon. eves. Info: (603) 436-7588.

### tuesday

**Cambridge, MA** — Boston chapter, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets 1st Tue of the month in conference room 1A Sherrill Hall Library, Episcopal Divinity School 99 Brattle, info: 436-5393 or P.O. Box 125-S101, Arlington, MA 02174.

**Cambridge, MA** — Lesbian SM support group. Every Tues. 7:30pm. Info: 776-7957. Open to lesbians supportive of or into SM.

**Boston, MA** — Urania: lesbian and bisexual women's SM support group. Safe, non-competitive space for women of all levels of experience to share political and personal aspects of our sexuality. 131 Cambridge St. 7:30pm. Info: Hathor 623-7258.

**Cambridge, MA** — Daughters of Bilitis. Discussion and social group. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. (Harv Sq.) 8pm. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Info: 661-3633

**Pittsfield, MA** — Berkshire County Gay Coalition meets 2nd and 4th Tues. Info: (413) 442-7772

**Hartford, CT** — Greater Hartford Lesbian and Gay Task Force meets at Hill Ctr., 350 Farmington Ave. 7pm (First Tues.) Info: 249-7691.

**Manchester, NH** — Manchester Men's Group, weekly support group for gay and bisexual men, meets Tuesdays at 7:30pm for coffee and discussion. Info: Joe (603) 224-6931.

**New London, CT** — New London Gay Men's Forum, support group for gay and bisexual men. Info: 447-0155 (Noon to 7pm).

**Portland, ME** — Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous meeting at First Parish, Unitarian. 425 Congress St. 8 pm. Open to all.

**Brattleboro, VT** — Southern Vermont Lesbian and Gay Men's Coalition meets on the second Tuesday of the month at the Common Ground Restaurant. 25 Elliot St. 7:30pm.

### wednesday

**Boston, MA** — Fathers in Transition, a group of gay/bi fathers meeting Weds. for friendship and support. Info: Exodus Ctr. 266-0612, or write: Fathers in Transition, c/o GCN Box 6, 167 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02111.

**Boston, MA** — Planning meetings for the celebration of International Women's Day now being held. Alternative Weds. beginning Jan. 5. 7:30pm. U/Mass Boston, 100 Arlington St. Rm. 622. (There will be a city-wide demo March 19) Info: 646-7707.

### Feb 8 tues

**Salem, MA** — "Forum on Nuclear Issues"—with speakers Leslie Cagan, Cathy Hoffman, and the films "War Without Winners" and "The Hat." Sponsored by North Shore Gay and Lesbian Alliance and the Salem State College Peace Institute. 7:30pm, Christopher Columbus Hall, 24 Endicott St. Free.

### 9 wed

**Boston, MA** — Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth (BAGLY) will hold a discussion on "Being gay at work and school." 7-9pm St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin St. (Beacon Hill) Info: 497-8282.

**Cambridge, MA** — INTRODUCTORY, an open discussion group for all women, meets at the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. Topic: Herpes. 8pm. Info: 354-8807.

**Cambridge, MA** — Boston National Organization for Women (NOW) Lesbian Rights Task Force meets 4th Wed. of month at 99 Bishop Allen Dr. (Central Sq.) Plan lobbying, public educ. and consciousness raising. Info: 661-6015.

**Boston, MA** — Walk-in VD screening and treatment for and by gay men. 6:30-8pm. Fenway Community Health Center, 16 Haviland St. (near Auditorium stop). 267-7573.

**Boston, MA** — Lunchtime for leabians. Isolated during the workday downtown? Interested in a lunchtime hangout/discussion group? Come to 80 Boylston St. Rm 855 (corner Boylston and Tremont). Noon. Info: 542-5188.

**Boston, MA** — Lesbian and Gay Media Advocates (LAGMA) meeting. 7:30-9:30pm. New members welcome. Help make the media more responsive to our needs. Info: 542-5679.

**Cambridge, MA** — Lesbian "coming out" group, new weekly open rap group, is now meeting at Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. (Central Sq.) 8-10pm. Info: 354-8807

**Cambridge, MA** — Daughters of Bilitis. 35+ women's discussion and social group. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8pm. Second Wed. and last Fri. of each month.

**Hyannis, MA** — Lesbian Support Group meets first Wed. of every month. 7:30pm. New members welcome. Orientation, social meetings. Warren Women's Center, 298 Main St. Info: 771-6739.

**Nashua, NH** — Greater Nashua Area of NH Lambda sponsors speakers and/or raps on the 2nd Wed. and 4th Thurs. 7:30pm. Business meets on 1st Sat. Info: (603) 889-1416.

**Bridgewater, MA** — South Shore Gay and Lesbian Alliance meets Weds. Info: 584-4997.

**Hartford, CT** — Lesbian AA meeting. Hill Ctr., 350 Farmington Ave. 8pm. Info: (203) 232-9737 or 742-8203.

**Providence, RI** — Transvestite/transsexual meetings. 8pm. Info: 272-9247

**Hampden County, MA** — Social/Support Group for Lesbians. 8pm. Info: Debbie 532-5878 or Julie 532-4959.

**Cambridge, MA** — Narcotics Anonymous Gay Meeting. 7 Temple St. (Central Sq.) 8:30-10pm. A twelve step recovery program for those whose "drug of choice" was other than alcohol.

**Boston, MA** — Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth (BAGLY). New persons' meeting 6:30pm; general meeting and group discussion 7-9pm. For youth 22 and under. Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin St. (Beacon Hill) Info: 497-8282.

**Boston, MA** — Boston Gay Men's YWCA meets every Wed from 7-10pm at the CHURCH, 140 Clarendon St. (So. End). Info: 625-3247.

### thursday

**Somerville, MA** — TV/TS Peer Support Group. Gender Clinic. Info: Martha 666-8280.

**Northampton, MA** — Pioneer Valley Gay People's Alliance now forming. First and Third Thursdays. Info: (413) 586-5979.

### 10 thurs

**Boston, MA** — GCN proofreading. Call 426-4469 if you'd like to help out. Thursday afternoons and evenings are the times we need people most. See next week's news this week!

### 11 fri

**Bellows Falls, VT** — Valentines Dance for women with Debbie Fier, Alix Dobkin and River Lightwomen at Andrews Inn. \$3.50. PM. Info: (802) 463-3968.

**Boston, MA** — "PIRATES" the story of women living, loving and fighting for survival aboard the pirate ship Sea Witch 15 years after the nuclear holocaust. Every Fri. and Sat. eve thru Feb. 26. 8pm. Cauldron Experimental Theater, 22 Randolph St. (near Dover T Stop) Tickets \$5 in advance \$7 at the door. Work exchange available. Info: 542-8575

**Boston, MA** — GCN VOLUNTEER NIGHT! Come help send out the paper to our subscribers. Refreshments and good times. Come anytime after 6 to our new space at 167 Tremont St. (near Boylston T stop) Call 426-4469 from phones nearby on street if downstairs door is closed when you arrive.

**Cambridge, MA** — Lesbians with children Support group. 8-10pm. Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807.

**Cambridge, MA** — Lesbian Liberation, an open discussion group. 8-10pm. Women's Center, 48 Pleasant St. Info: 354-8807.

**Cambridge, MA** — Lesbian Mothers, a new support group for women dealing with the issues of being a lesbian mother. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10 pm. Info: 354-8807 (Diane or Sandy).

**Storrs, Ct** — U/Conn Gay Alliance meets 8:30pm Rm 216 A, U/Conn Student Union.

### friday

**BOSTON, MA** — GAY COMMUNITY NEWS (THAT'S US!) ALWAYS NEEDS HELP SENDING OUT THE PAPER ON FRIDAY EVES. COME BY FOR A FEW HOURS TO OUR NEW SPACE AT 187 TREMONT (ON THE COMMON, NEAR BOYLSTON T STOP) ANYTIME AFTER 6 AND LEND A HAND. REFRESHMENTS AND GOOD TIMES! EVERY BODY WELL COME! INFO: 426-4469, THANKS!

**Hartford, CT** — Your Turl, a weekly drop-in center for lesbian and gay teenagers. 7-9pm at the Hill Center. 350 Farmington Ave (upstairs). Sponsored by the Coalition of Sexual Minorities

**Pittsfield, MA** — Weekly meetings of Lesbians United. Info: Women's Services center, 499-2425

**Concord, NH** — Concord's Men's Group meets Fridays at 7:30pm for coffee and discussion. 67 Thorndike St. Info: Joe 224-6931

**Providence, RI** — Rhode Island Gay and Lesbian Youth meets every Sat. from 1-5pm for youth 14-21 years of age. Info: MCC 272-9247 or Gay Help Line 751-3322 (eves)

**Cambridge, MA** — Amazon Lesbian Al-Anon. Mt. Auburn Hospital. (Living room. Clark bldg.) 8-9:30pm. Newcomers meeting from 7:30-8pm on the first Friday only.

### saturday

**Providence, RI** — Rhode Island Gay and Lesbian Youth meets every Sat. from 1-5pm for youth 14-21 years of age. Info: MCC 272-9247 or Gay Help Line 751-3322 (eves)

**Boston, MA** — Front Runners Boston, gay and lesbian running group. Info: 825-0181

**Boston, MA** — Chiltern Mt. Club. Regularly scheduled sports and outdoors events. General info: John 275-1336; Linda 734-4066; John 864-0823. Volleyball: Jay 262-4896; Basketball: Kieran 232-7229.

### 12 sat

**Provincetown, MA** — Valentines dance fundraiser for WOMANTIDE, lesbian magazine. Provincetown town hall. 9-1am. Adm. \$3.

**Cambridge, MA** — "Have a Heart" Valentine's Dance—a drug and alcohol free event for all women. Cambridge YWCA. 9pm. \$4 more or less. Sponsored by the Y and Amethyst Women.

**Boston, MA** — "PIRATES" see 11 Fri listing.

### 13 sun

**Boston, MA** — Chiltern Mt. Club. 3rd Annual almost Valentines Day Skating Party. Info: Scott (617) 776-4653.

### 14 mon

**Ipswich, MA** — "Valentines Day party at Fantasy's." A benefit for North Shore Gay and Lesbian Alliance. Fantasy's. Rte. 1. 8pm. Adm. \$5.

**Boston, MA** — The paintings of Jim Broussard on display at the Ideal Diner, 21 Huntington.

**Boston, MA** — Benefit for the Lesbian and Gay Hotline at Boston at Buddies, 733 Boylston. 9:00pm. \$2 Adm. Entertainment and door prizes.

**The deadline for Calendar items is Monday at noon for the following issue.....**